

**San Francisco Estuary Project
Implementation Committee Meeting**

May 5, 2006

Elihu M. Harris State Building
Oakland, California

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Introductions/Approval of February 3, 2006 Meeting Summary

Larry Kolb, Chair of the Implementation Committee, began the meeting shortly after 10 o'clock with a round table of introductions.

Action: the IC approved the Meeting Summary for February 3, 2006.

2. Public Comments

The CCMP Update effort was announced in the April issue of *Estuary* Newsletter and assistance from all interested parties requested.

3. CCMP Aquatic Resources Management

A. Presentation by Bill Bennett, UC Davis: Implications of Growth and Mortality in the Recent Decline of Delta Smelt

Dr. Bennett began with an overview of the POD (Pelagic Organism Decline) in the Delta which has been dramatic over 2003-2005 causing the IEP (Interagency Ecological Program for the San Francisco Estuary) to launch an intensive multi-year study to determine causes. The three leading contenders include water exports, changes in the food web, and contaminants. Dr. Bennett described the life cycle of the delta smelt, one of the impacted species, and discussed research which indicates there has been a large increase in juvenile mortality during the summer months, a decline in size indicating food web problems, and more exotics in the system particularly a significant increase in the overbite clam, a competitor for copepods. Temperature and salinity are also issues as delta smelt cannot tolerate salinity over 19 ppt or temperatures over 20 degrees C. Research is continuing with the goal to inform policy changes although the future for the delta smelt does not look promising. Dr. Bennett does not think slight "tweaks" to the system will solve these problems; he is in favor of trying dynamic solutions.

B. Presentation by Ben Livsey, SFEP/RWQCB: San Francisco Regional Water Board's Stream and Wetland Protection Policy

The policy is being jointly developed by the San Francisco and the North Bay Regional Water Boards for inclusion in their Basin Plans to promote regulatory and permitting consistency. It will emphasize the connectedness between stream and wetland systems, including riparian areas and floodplains. Its goals are to protect and restore stream and wetland systems and their natural hydrologic regime to enhance pollution prevention, flood control and other water quality functions. Bay area streams are highly degraded primarily due to human disturbance causing stream bank erosion, increased sediment from landslides, cattle grazing and other cumulative effects. The policy will establish an integrated policy to protect the physical integrity of the watershed and water quality and clarify waters of the state include the riparian zone. The benefits will include water quality enhancement, restoring the natural hydrograph, channel stability, flood protection, wetlands habitat restoration and scientifically

based habitat integrity. The project is presently in CEQA scoping and public hearings. A draft report is estimated to be completed by fall.

Action: Ben Livesey's powerpoint presentation will be emailed to IC members.

4. Draft 2006-07 SFEP Work Plan and Budget

Marcia Brockbank requested final comments on the revised work plan and noted that EPA reduced the 06-07 NEP funds by \$15,000 to \$492,600, SFEP's only discretionary funds. With the reduction and the need for allocating funds for the CCMP Update, the budget for several SFEP activities is reduced (the Small Grants Program, Subtidal Goals Project and SFEP continues without administrative staff). Comments included correcting the typo under Subtask 5.3 which should read "Dept. of Fish and Game" and rewriting Subtask 4.10 to indicate elimination of Steve Cochrane's student education work. Brockbank said the work plan and budget had been forwarded to the Executive Council for comment and approval. Will Travis noted the record should show he grumbled.

Action: IC voted to approve the 2006-2007 SFEP budget and work plan.

5. SFEP Issues/Activities

A. Progress Report on CCMP Update/Revisions – Work Group Facilitators

Aquatic Resources and Wildlife: Rick Morat, facilitator, stated in Aquatic Resources there were 27 action items of which 6 will be revised and 21 left as is; and in Wildlife of 14 action items, 13 are ok and 1 will be deleted. There are potentially 21 new action items not included in the 1993 CCMP. The next meeting will be May 23, 2006.

Watershed/Land Use: Cathy Bleier and Rainer Hoenicke, facilitators, noted their workgroup was looking at land use, watersheds, and levees. There was no "watershed" chapter in the 1993 CCMP, although the Land Use section discussed watershed planning and activities. They requested ideas for new action items be sent to them.

Wetlands: Mike Monroe, facilitator, noted there was a lack of diversity in the work group for this effort, compared to the first CCMP. The group has viewed the action items and will leave most of what's there and brainstormed on new items. Next meeting is May 31, 2006.

Pollution Prevention: Tom Mumley spoke for the work group and mentioned they will consider emerging pollutants.

Water Use and Dredging and Waterway Modification: Brockbank noted the Water Use group has made good progress under Cindy Darling and probably will be ready to bring its recommendations to the IC November meeting. She reminded members that the LTMS has been asked to review the Dredging/Waterway Modification program area.

There will be a facilitator's meeting today following the IC to discuss common issues.

B. June 27 CCMP Implementation Finance Strategy Workshop

Marcia Brockbank announced the CCMP long-term finance strategy workshop will be held June 27 at 10 AM in the ABAG conference room. A draft strategy will be sent to participants

prior to the workshop for review. She reminded members this is an EPA requirement and that any member is welcome to attend the workshop.

C. Resolution to sign Bay Area Water Forum MOU

Marcia Brockbank referred members to the resolution in the meeting packet and provided background on the BAWF's request for the IC to sign the MOU.

Action: after some discussion, the motion passed to authorize signing the MOU.

D. Ecosystem Indicators Update

Rainer Hoenicke stated the water quality index was coming up with results-- a prototype with data. The bird indicator work group continues to meet and PRBO has been added to the group. The Indicators work group is developing a riparian index and adjusting the fish index.

The Santa Clara Basin WMI has drafted pilot indicators for the Coyote Creek system below Anderson Reservoir which should be put out in the next month.

E. Other SFEP Activities: Karen McDowell noted SFEP is working to update the California Aquatic Invasive Species Plan and the draft plan will be posted on the DFG web site sometime this summer. Statewide public comment meetings will be organized.

6. CALFED Activities

Brendan Reed reported that the CALFED PSP for ag related projects recommended 9 projects for funding; 5 in the Bay Area. He spoke about the reorganization of CALFED, the new 10 year action plan and its recommendations which have not yet been approved. The Ecosystem Restoration Program moves to Dept. of Fish and Game as of July 1.

The CALFED Science Conference is scheduled for October 23-25, 2006 at the Sacramento Convention Center. Abstracts for proposed talks are due by June 2.

7. Larry Kolb – Celebration and Appreciation of Service

Larry Kolb announced his retirement from the Regional Water Board as of July 1 and was thanked for his many years of service to the Implementation Committee with a plaque and a celebration following the meeting. Bruce Wolfe, Water Board Executive Officer announced Tom Mumley, Planning and TMDL Division Chief would be taking over as Chair of the Implementation Committee at the August meeting since the Water Board is the lead implementing agency for the CCMP.

8. Agenda for August Meeting

Topics requested: Update on the Spartina eradication program; update on mercury research projects; CCMP outreach. Barbara Salzman requested Friends of the Estuary be given a time slot on the I/C Agenda.

9. Adjourn

SFEP I/C Meeting Attendees
Friday, May 5, 2006

Bill Bennett, UC Davis
Cathy Bleier, Resources Agency
Phil Bobel, City of Palo Alto
Mike Connor, SFEI
Arthur Feinstein, Citizens to Complete the Refuge
Rainer Hoenicke, SFEI
Matt Jacobs, Office of San Mateo Co. Supervisor Richard Gordon
Tom Kendall, USACOE
Larry Kolb, SF RWQCB
Peter LaCivita, USACOE
Mike Monroe, US-EPA-Region 9
Rick Morat, USFWS
Tom Mumley, SFRWQCB
Michael Perrone, DWR
Chris Potter, Resources Agency
Brendan Reed, CALFED
Barbara Salzman, Marin Audubon
Ted Smith, Friends of the Estuary
Will Travis, BCDC
Luisa Valiela, EPA-Region 9
Bruce Wolfe, SFRWQCB

SFEP Staff

Marcia Brockbank
Debbi Egter Van Wissekerke
Ben Livsey
Karen McDowell
Joan Patton
Paula Trigueros